



# GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **DOR Assumes Underage Tobacco Enforcement Role**

ATLANTA – Beginning July 1, the Georgia Department of Revenue became responsible for enforcing the state's underage laws regarding tobacco products.

Georgia law prohibits persons under the age of 18 from purchasing, possessing or using tobacco products and prohibits the selling of tobacco products to minors.

"The intent of our enforcement is to reduce the availability of tobacco products to individuals under 18 years of age," said Georgia Commissioner of Revenue T. Jerry Jackson.

Commissioner Jackson reminds all retail dealers of tobacco products that a state license is required to deal in cigars and cigarettes. The license is currently available without charge.

Retailers can obtain Tobacco License Application forms at DOR's Central Office, 270 Washington Street in Room 207 or by contacting any Special Agent of the Alcohol and Tobacco Division at DOR's regional offices located throughout the State. The forms are also available via the Internet at: <http://www2.state.ga.us/Departments/DOR/>.

"DOR's Alcohol and Tobacco Division will begin compliance check operations within the next 30 days," Commissioner Jackson said. "The goal of these checks is to determine compliance with applicable laws and regulations while raising retailer's awareness of the requirements and responsibilities of dealing in tobacco products."

The Commissioner urges dealers to comply voluntarily with the laws and regulations.

"Those dealers or persons found not to be in compliance with the law face criminal and civil penalties," Jackson warned.

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